6. Scrapping of Operational and Maintenance Contract (O&M) given to the contractors of filmsy grounds.

7. Immediate implementation of merger of 50% DA in Basis Pay *w.e.f.* 1.4.2005.

8. The discrimination and disparity with the unionized category in distribution of additional annual incentive (Profit Sharing) should be immediately removed by evolving a new distribution formula.

(c) 14 meeting have been held with representatives of the recognized unions on various dates to discuss the issues of common interest.

(d) (i) Issue within the purview of the management of ONGC have been addressed as discussed with the recognized unions from time to time.

(ii) The issue of merger of 50% D.A. is to be decided by the Govt. of India for all Central PSUs following the Industrial DA pattern.

(iii) The demand for regularizaiton of tenure based employees raised by the ONGC Employees Mazdoor Sabha, Vadodra is pending before the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal, Ahmedabad in ID No. 1476/2004.

Employment of term/tenure based workers in ONGC

812. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term/tenure based workers were employed in the ONGC prior to the amendment of 'Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946';

(b) if so, the number of such employees in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Assam; and

(c) what action is taken by the Department or the Ministry for the demand of the above employees who have completed mroe than four years and are allowed to continue on their respective jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons engaged prior to the amendment of Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rule, 1946 is as under:

Gujarat	-	577	
Maharashtra	-	83	
Assam	-	07	
TOTAL:		-	667

(c) Tenure based engagement was initially for 4 years. On completion of the initial tenure, the personnel meeting the job requirement and eligibility criteria were re-engaged for a fresh term of another 4 years.

Revision of gas prices

†813. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of gas have been revised several times in the country during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the date on which the said prices were revised and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a proposal for increasing gas prices by 12.5 per cent was also formulated two months back; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the ground which are kept in mind by Government at the time of fixing the gas prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The consumer price ofAdministered Pricing Mechanism (APM) gas was revised *w.e.f.* 1-7-2005 for Power and Fertilizers sectors, consumers covered under court orders and consumers having allocations upto 0.05 MMSCMD in order to reduce the disparity with fuel prices, to bring the price of natural gas closer to the market price and to cover the cost of production and ensure reasonable return to producers. The market price of gas to other categories of customers on HVJ and in Uran, Gujarat, KG Basin and Cauvery Basin was also revised on 1-7-2005. This market price was again increased *w.e.f.* 1-4-2006.

Further, the APM gas price has been increased *w.e.f.* 6-6-2006 for City Gas Distribution projects and small consumers having allocation upto 0.5 MMSCMD, so as to reflect the market price in a phased manner over the next 3 to 5 years.

The price of gas from PMT, Ravva and Ravva Satellite is determined by the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed by the concerned Consortium with the Government. PMT gas price was revised *w.e.f.* 1.4.2005 and again on 1.4.2006. The price of Ravva Gas was revised *w.e.f.* 1.7.2005. The Ravva Satellite gas priced was revised *w.e.f.* 1.10.2006.

Petronet LNG Limited has a term contract with Ras Gas Qatar for supply of 5 MMTPA LNG; RLNG so obtained is supplied to customers. In terms of the Government policy decision dated 6.3.2007, conveying that the gas prices being charged on supply of RLNG procured under term-contracts should be on a non-discriminatory basis and that uniform pooled prices should be charged from all existing and new consumers, the price of RLNG has been increased for the earlier customers.

(c) and (d) While revising the APM price of natural gas, it was decided by the Government that Tariff Commission would examine the issue of producer price of natural gas. Tariff Commission has recommended increase in the producer price of natural gas, both for ONGC and OIL. Tariff Commission has also recommended that the consumer price should be somewhat higher than the producer price, looking at the substantial difference between the recommended producer price and the price of market gas/alternative fuels. Government is examining the recommendations of tha Tariff Commission.

Proposal for 100 per cent foreign capital investment in petroleum industry

814. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government is considering to allow 100 per cent foreign capital investment in petroleum industry;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposal; and

(c) what is the necessity to consider and implement this proposal in the country?